

Richard Coffin, Chief of Research and Advocacy, USAFacts

Richard Coffin is Chief of Research and Advocacy at USAFacts, Steve Ballmer's non-profit, non-partisan civic initiative aimed at empowering Americans with facts by making government data more accessible, understandable, and useable. He joined the organization as its first employee in 2015 and guided it through its initial research and ideation phase, oversaw its launch, and steered its product vision as the organization expanded and evolved.

In his role leading research and advocacy, Richard and his team oversee the organization's research efforts including its publications, standards of analysis, and subject matter expertise. He is also responsible for the organization's government outreach and partnerships where he focuses on providing accurate, accessible, and understandable data to government for use in decision-making. In this capacity, he is also responsible for identifying and supporting improvements that can be made to data collected and produced by federal, state, and local government.

Prior to this role, Richard spent several years as the organization's Chief Product Officer, where he led product vision and strategy, data acquisition, content production, and the build out of the customer-facing website and platform.

Before joining USAFacts, Richard lived in Santiago, Chile as a Fulbright Scholar where he conducted research on changes in voting patterns as a result of new voter registration laws. Previously, he worked as a corporate strategy analyst on the Executive Strategic and Special Projects and Global Advertising teams at Microsoft, and as a polling analyst for the global research and public relations consultancies of Penn, Schoen & Berland and Burson-Marsteller.

Richard graduated from Harvard University with an AB in government and a secondary field in neurobiology. He is a native of Denver, Colorado, and currently resides in Seattle, Washington.